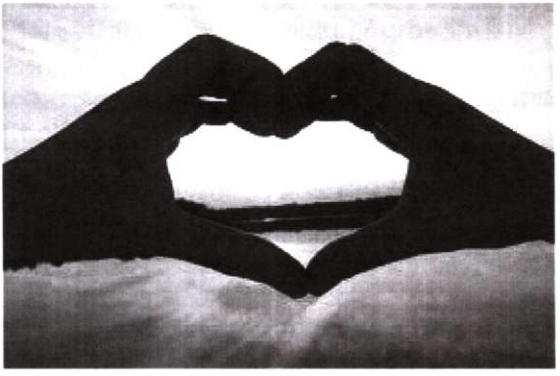
MCC
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Sunday, October 19, 2014
17th Pentecost

Harvest Generosity



930 North 4th Street ♦ Allentown, PA 18102
610-709-8800 ♦ info@mcclv.org ♦ www.mcclv.org

The Mission of MCCLV is to call all people to a holy life in Christ, changing lives and transforming the world

MCC LEHIGH VALLEY ORDER OF SERVICE

As you prepare for worship, take a few moments to reflect on the current state of your relationship with God. Is the communication channel completely open and free of any cross-traffic that might interfere with your ability to hear from God? What do you need to let go of, so that you may let God take control? Close your eyes, take a deep breath and let worship begin for you...

Opening Song

Call to Worship

Invitation to Ministry

A Time of Praise (3 Songs)

Prayer Preparation Song

Prayer

Scripture Reading

Children's Blessing

Baptism

Message

Song of Response

Offering

Offering Song

Communion

Communion Song

Prayer Over Gifts

Closing Song

Commission & Blessing

Notes From The Office at MCCLV

Administrative Assistant
Paula Merkel
Office Hours:
Monday: 8am-2pm
Tues-Thurs: 8am-1pm
Friday: 8am—12 noon

Audio-Visual Support: Anyone planning an event at MCCLV **is required to email avteam@mcclv.org at least 2 weeks** in advance to arrange any needed AV support. The church may not be able to honor last minute requests.

Space Reservation: Any individual or group wishing to schedule a meeting or event at the church **is required to fill out a space reservation form**. Write to office@mcclv.org more information.

Sunday Bulletin & Announcements

The deadline for all bulletin notices & announcements is **Wednesday at noon** – email to office@mcclv.org

Looking for low-cost space for you birthday party or family celebration? Consider MCCLV's Fellowship Hall for your gathering! Contact Administrative Assistant Paula Merkel at 610-709-8800 or e-mail office@mcclv.org for more information.

MCCLV IS ON YOUTUBE!
To view and subscribe to our channel go to **www.youtube.com** and search **MCC LV**.

Early Morning Prayer now being held in the room behind the sound booth

Prayer Develops Our Relationship with God.

If we never speak to our friends or never listen to anything they might have to say to us, our relationships will quickly deteriorate. It is the same way with God. Prayer - communicating with God helps us grow closer and more intimately connected with God.

Zechariah 13:9

I will bring that group through the fire and make them pure, just as gold and silver are refined and purified by fire. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'These are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.' (NLT)

****IMPORTANT UPCOMING PROGRAM****

Holiday Grief in the LGBTQ Community

As the holidays approach many of us experience dread and pain, whether due to the death of a loved one or loss of relationships and the holidays can intensify the pain.

A workshop to address the pain and dread of the holidays will be held: **Sunday, November 23, 2014 from 2:00pm-4:00pm in MCCLV's Fellowship Hall**

Tell a friend or neighbor. It will be open to the public at no cost, but pre-registration is encouraged.

The workshop will be presented by Elaine Ely, a trained, experienced and certified Grief Counselor. She can be reached at elaine.ely.pastor@gmail.com or by phone at (215) 915-4370 for more information or to register.

MCCLV IS ON FACEBOOK!
Search **MCC Lehigh Valley.** All MCCLV related posts and tags will be approved through the office. Thank you for your cooperation!

Spiritual Drum Circle
Oct 26;
Nov 9 & 30;
Dec 14 & 28

Meeting in the MCCLV's Sanctuary from 2:15-3:15. Join us for a relaxed, fun exploration of spirit through group drumming hosted by Raea. Nurture the connection between you and Spirit, others and your higher self. But be warned: exposure to drumming may cause sudden outbursts of joy, happiness, energy, creativity, awareness and spontaneous healing!

No experience is necessary. If you have a drum or percussion instrument, please bring it. Some instruments will be available to share. Have questions? Contact Barb Baus at barb.baus@mcclv.org

*****FOOD PANTRY*****

The Pantry is open the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month from 1:00-3:00pm and will be distributing food in the library.

Think about volunteering one Sunday a month or once every couple of months. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, contact:
Saadia Negron at **saadia.negron@yahoo.com**
or Judy McNally at **njm0@Lehigh.edu**.

TRICKY TRAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
IT PAYS TO VOLUNTEER!

The Tricky Tray Committee needs volunteers to help before and on the day of the event. Volunteers are needed on **Friday, November 7th** to transport baskets and set up the event space. Volunteers are needed on **Saturday, November 8th** to sell raffle tickets for each prize category and to assist with prize running during the drawing portion of the day.

Lastly, volunteers are needed to canvas the Lehigh Valley with posters for the event (local businesses, supermarkets, daycares, etc. please get the store owner/management's permission before posting a sign).

Those volunteering during the event on the 8th will receive $26 in perks and the Tricky Tray Committee's eternal gratitude!

Day-of-Event Volunteers get: reduced priced $20 admission ticket and lunch (value $5), 5 Purple tickets (value $5), 3 Orange tickets (value $9) and 1 Yellow ticket (value $7) for a total value of $26.

Contact Jenn LaTorre at jlaroux2002@yahoo.com or see her following worship to sign up. Thank you!

TRICKY TRAY CORPORATE DONATIONS AND POSTERS

Help the Tricky Tray Committee by taking corporate donation letters to all the businesses you frequent (hairdresser, bank, restaurants/bars, real estate agent, mechanic, florist, accountant, lawyer, etc.) and personally asking them to support MCCLV by either donating an item, service, or gift certificate for inclusion in a basket OR placing an ad in the event program booklet. Donation letters are available following service. The letter includes the sizes and costs for placing advertisements in the program.

See Sue Carpenter or any member of the Tricky Tray Committee for letters or posters.

TRICKY TRAY TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!!!

Come out and have a fun time while hopefully winning a great prize! Invite your friends, families, neighbors and co-workers! The venue can accommodate 25 tables which is 200 people. The committee welcomes the problem of "overselling" the house!

Questions or to buy tickets, please see Wendy Bitterman or any member of the Tricky Tray Committee following worship.

Quote Of The Day

Real generosity is doing something for others even when you're certain you will get nothing back, even a thank you

(Michael Josephson)

Church Share Meeting

SHARE

Will be held in the MCCLV Library

October 28, 2014

6:00pm—7:00pm

All are welcome to help MCCLV explore the idea of sharing space with other churches in the Lehigh Valley

Policy & Procedure Committee

All strong organizations run smoothly with clear policies and procedures in place. Share your skills with the Policy & Procedure Committee.

Meets 4th Sunday

For more information,
please see **Emma Marrero:**
emma.marrero@kidspeace.org

MCC
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

8th ANNUAL
TRICKY TRAY
BASKET RAFFLE

TAILGATE PARTY

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 8, 2014

Doors Open at 9 AM
Drawing Begins at 12 NOON

American Club
of Coplay Pavilion
300 Cherry Street
Coplay, PA 18037

TICKET PRICE: $25.00 (non-refundable)
Includes Tailgate Party Luncheon

To pre-purchase tickets (space is limited)
Email: TrickyTrayMCCLV@gmail.com
or see a Tricky Tray Committee Member

Personal checks at the door require photo ID
MasterCard and VISA accepted day of event

Over 100
Fabulous Prizes to Win!
Flat Screen LCD/HDTV
Lenovo Laptop
Microsoft Surface
eReader
Dyson Vacuum
Keurig Coffee Maker
Blue Ray Player
Children's Electronics
Coach Purse
Cookware
Lottery Ticket Trees

PLUS
Fantastic Gift Cards!
Cash Prizes!
Door Prizes!

All proceeds raised will benefit the Communities and Missions served by:
Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
930 North 4th St., First Floor ~ Allentown, PA 18102 ~ 610-709-8800
The Mission of MCCLV is to call all people to a holy life in Christ, changing lives and transforming the world!

MCCLV Office Coverage Needed From Volunteers Due to Staff Layoffs and Reductions

***All Office Volunteers are required to fill out the Volunteer Form and receive Training ***

All those interested in becoming involved and helping out during this difficult time,
please join us at MCCLV on
Monday November 3, 2014
at 7pm

Are you interested in volunteerism? Consider these opportunities:

- **Volunteer to share information about the congregation at various locations throughout the Lehigh Valley**
- **Volunteer your time to write for and put together MCCLV's publications, such as this e-mail, list serve, Sunday bulletin or brochures**
- **Volunteer your time answering phones, replying to e-mail, maintaining the church's social media accounts and Doing other office tasks**
- **Volunteer your time cleaning the church**
- **Volunteer your time with the church library**

If you would like to commit to any of the above, praise God! Fill out the required Volunteer Form at the church and you will be blessed in your service.

Your commitment to help is much appreciated.

For more information see
Emma Marrero or e-mail her at
autleaves@aol.com

Below is an update from the MCCLV Pastor

Dear Friends,

Greetings and God's best to you!

As you may know, MCCLV has been experiencing financial and worship attendance difficulties this year. While these may appear to be practical problems, the overall issue is a spiritual one.

Starting with practical matters: in order to address the funding situation, the church's Board of Directors voted at its 10/12/14 meeting to:

- Eliminate MCCLV's Administrative Assistant position
- Reduce MCCLV's Music & Worship Director Salary 15%
- Reduce MCCLV's Pastor Salary 15%

The Administrative Assistant position elimination is effective 10/24/14, while the fifteen percent salary reductions are effective 11/01/14.

If you have ever been laid off from a job or had your salary reduced even one percentage point, you know that these are significant cuts.

The complete proposed 2015 Budget will be available at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 16 or may be obtained prior to the meeting by contacting any Board or Budget Committee member.

Are you interested in ways you could assist MCCLV during this time? Here are some suggestions:

- Pray regularly and positively for the church
- Bring a friend, family member, neighbor or co-worker with you to MCCLV's worship services.
- Mail in a donation to MCCLV at 930 North 4th Street, Allentown, PA 18102

Are you interested in volunteerism? Consider these opportunities:

- Volunteer to share information about the congregation at various locations throughout the Lehigh Valley
- Volunteer your time to write for and put together MCCLV's publications, such as this e-listserve, Sunday bulletins or brochures

Adult Baptism

Today you are baptized, which is your official welcome into the Christian Church.

Do you at this time renounce Satan, turn to Christ and acknowledge your intention to walk a Christian journey?

Candidate for Baptism: I do.

Celebrant: Recalling that Jesus told us, "Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit," I ask you: Do you believe in God?

Candidate for Baptism: I do

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of us all?

Candidate for Baptism: I do

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, that power within us that gives us the stamina to face the truth and live it?

Candidate for Baptism: I do

Look with joy to your baptism.

Scripture

"And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." I Peter 3:21

Prayer

Let us pray over the water: Gracious God, we thank You that in every age You have made water a sign of Your presence. Wash away the sins of those who enter this water. Embrace them in the arms of Your church. Pour out Your Spirit on them that they may be agents of reconciling love. Make them one with Christ, buried and raised in the power of Christ's resurrection, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Baptism

- Volunteer your time answering phones, replying to e-mail, maintaining the church's social media accounts and doing other office tasks
- Volunteer your time cleaning the church
- Volunteer your time with the church library

If you would like to commit to any of the above, praise God! Fill out the required Volunteer Form at the church and you will be blessed in your service. Your commitment to help is much appreciated.

More important than any of the information shared so far is an acknowledgment that the roots of this tough time are spiritual.
Money and worship attendance struggles in faith communities are an indication of deep spiritual challenges. Living in abundance rather than scarcity was the persistent call of Jesus in the 1st century and his call continues in the 21st century. The kingdom of God is not some sort of far away, never-to-be-experienced place, it is right here and right now - a kingdom that stretches from past to present and into eternity! What a luxurious gift God has set before each one of us.

As Christians, MCCLV'ers are to know that there is no lack of resources, be it hope or funding or compassion or grace or whatever, for "a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap." (Luke 6:38)

The attendance and financial troubles at MCCLV are overcome with the community taking joyful responsibility for our spiritual growth. Making long-term commitments goes against the dominant culture's insistence that quick fixes and magical thinking will somehow get us to the place we need to be. In scripture we are reminded that "only one thing is needful" (Luke 10:42) and that is to sit at the feet of Jesus. The spiritual life presents different priorities to the journeyer compared to a life lived for fame, fortune, power or control. Following Jesus does not grant a life of luxury in terms of possessions, promotions or popularity. Instead, the luxury of a spiritual life is its riches of love, overflowing mercy and abounding faithfulness.

Want to embrace the riches of a life lived for God? Want to share your pilgrimage with a community that strives to be inclusive? Want your children to learn spiritual values in a diverse and progressive setting? Want to grow deeper in faith? Want to learn more about sacred texts? Want to feed the hungry, visit the imprisoned or comfort the sick? Be a part of MCCLV - consider re-newing or making your commitment today.

Blessings in all things! *Rev. Elizabeth Goudy*

CALLING ALL BASKET WRAPPERS

The Tricky Tray Committee has set two dates for basket wrapping in preparation for the November 8th Tricky Tray event. If you can help with this project, it would be greatly appreciated. **Saturday, November 1st from 9 am to 12 noon (donuts and coffee).** All supplies will be provided.

TRICKY TRAY "PURPLE" BASKETS NEEDED!

The donation category most in need of help for the upcoming Tricky Tray Basket Raffle is the PURPLE category. This is the category where the total retail value of the basket needs to be $50-$149. Please keep in mind that with great sales, items can be purchased at discounts but the "value" of the basket gets calculated on the original retail value. Currently, there are 16 baskets promised in this category which needs 50-55.

Also in need are the **ORANGE** (retail value $150-$299) and **YELLOW** (retail value $300-$499) categories. For ORANGE, we currently have 2 promised and need a total of 8-10 and for YELLOW, we do not currently have any promised and need around 5 in total.

Any help you can provide in either donating or helping recruit business donations would be greatly appreciated. Please see Sue Carpenter or email her at **TrickyTrayMCCLV@gmail.com** with questions or if you are able to help out.

Baskets are due to the church asap or at the latest, the end of October.

Depart from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.

Psalm 34:14

PAID NURSERY WORKER SOUGHT

Paid Nursery Worker sought for MCCLV'S Sunday morning worship services. For an application, Sue Carpenter at sue.carpenter@voya.com

Help Wanted

Want to Grow in Wisdom and Knowledge?

Make a six night commitment this coming Autumn that will transform your life! Join in a six-part Adult Bible Study, meeting Wednesdays at 7:00pm. Get an in-depth look at six important New Testament letters and be forever changed!

October 22: Ephesians
October 29: Philippians
November 5: Colossians
November 12: 1 Thessalonians
November 19: 2 Thessalonians

Stewardship Team Meets 4th Sunday of Month

MCCLV's Stewardship Team meets the 4th Sunday of the month at 9:00am. Come to these great gatherings and help plan things like the church's annual pledge drive.

All are welcome to participate.

Contact Jim Harbst at **jim.harbst@icloud.com** or Lauren Sheldon at **laurenesheldon@gmail.com**

The AV Team Needs You!

Do you enjoy techie things? Interested in how the technology at MCCLV comes together?

See Jeff Hayes or e-mail avteam@mcclv.org for more details.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Save The Date

November 16, 2014

Details to Follow

CHURCH MEMBER LORELI BAUER HOSTS A "GIVE THANKS" OPEN HOUSE

Join Loreli & Leslie
Saturday, November 1st
4:00-7:00pm

420 South 9th Street
Perkasie, PA

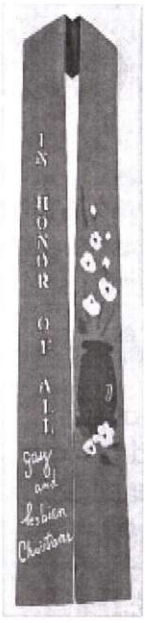
Home-made soups, bread, wassail and more

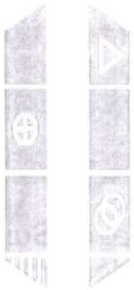
Bring a side dish or a dessert to share

RSVP by October 25 to 215-257-6836

Donations for MCCLV's Food Pantry will graciously be accepted

A celebration of LGBT inclusion in religious life





Shower of Stoles PROJECT

Exhibit and Program

October 29, 2014 6:30-8pm
brief program at 7pm

Egner Memorial Chapel at Muhlenberg College
2400 W. Chew St. Allentown, PA 18104

The Shower of Stoles is a collection of over a thousand liturgical stoles and other sacred items representing the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people of faith. These religious leaders have served in thirty-two denominations and faith traditions, in six countries, and on three continents. Each stole contains the story of a GLBT person who is active in the life and leadership of their faith community in some way: minister, elder, deacon, teacher, missionary, musician, administrator, or active layperson.

Sponsored by:

BRADBURY-SULLIVAN
LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER
Serving the LGBT Community of the Greater Lehigh Valley

MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

Office of the Chaplain
Hillel
Students for Queer Advocacy
Muhlenberg Trans* Advocacy Coalition

Include The Name of a Departed Loved One

MCCLV will be observing All Saints Sunday on **November 2**, with a special slide show of names of beloved family members or friends who have passed on to glory. Send in the name(s) you'd like to see on the slide show to MCCLV's Admin Assistant, Paula Merkel at office@mcclv.org or phone 610-709-8800.

"*For all the saints who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed, thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!*"

MCCLV is collecting donations for food cards

2nd Sunday of the month after the worship service. Consider purchasing a gift card from **Giant, Redners or Weis** or making a donation to help those in great need of reducing their grocery store bills.

Meeting of **ALL** Ushers, Blessers and Acolytes
will be held **TODAY** following worship
in the Sanctuary.

Reminder!

Topic:
Changes to policies

Also, anyone who feels a calling for any of these positions, or has any question please contact Ed Rohrbach.
Phone number (484) 538-9165.

MCCLV Members Aim For 10%!

Tithe and Percentage Giving

Annual Income	Weekly Income	Tithe Weekly Giving	Upper Range of Giving Weekly Giving			Middle Range of Giving Weekly Giving			Lower Range of Giving Weekly Giving		
		10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
$22,000	$423	$42	$38	$34	$30	$25	$21	$17	$13	$8	$4
$25,000	$481	$48	$43	$38	$34	$29	$24	$19	$14	$10	$5
$30,000	$577	$58	$52	$46	$40	$35	$29	$23	$17	$12	$6
$40,000	$769	$77	$69	$62	$54	$46	$38	$31	$23	$15	$8
$50,000	$962	$96	$87	$77	$67	$58	$48	$38	$29	$19	$10
$60,000	$1,154	$115	$104	$92	$81	$69	$58	$46	$35	$23	$12
$70,000	$1,346	$135	$121	$108	$94	$81	$67	$54	$40	$27	$13
$80,000	$1,538	$154	$138	$123	$108	$92	$77	$62	$46	$31	$15
$90,000	$1,731	$173	$156	$139	$121	$104	$87	$69	$52	$35	$17
$100,000	$1,923	$192	$173	$154	$135	$115	$96	$77	$58	$38	$19
$110,000	$2,115	$212	$190	$169	$148	$127	$106	$85	$63	$42	$21
$120,000	$2,308	$231	$208	$185	$162	$138	$115	$92	$69	$46	$23
$140,000	$2,692	$269	$242	$215	$188	$162	$135	$108	$81	$54	$27

UPCOMING WORSHIP AT MCCLV

20th Pentecost: October 26, 2014 @ 10:30am
Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:31-46
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"Harvest Other-Centeredness"**

All Saints: November 2, 2014 @ 10:30am
Scripture Readings: 1 John 3:1-3 & Revelation 7:9-17
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"Around The Throne"**

22nd Pentecost: November 9, 2014 @ 10:30am
Scripture Reading: Psalm 42
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"Savoring the Psalms I"**

23rd Pentecost: November 16, 2014 @ 10:30am
Scripture Reading: Psalm 80
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"Savoring the Psalms II"**

24th Pentecost: November 23, 2014
Scripture Reading: Psalm 46
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"Savoring the Psalms III"**

1st Advent: November 30, 2014 @ 10:30am
Scripture Reading: Psalm 124
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **" Savoring the Psalms IV"**

Today's Scripture Reading:

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'God scatters abroad and gives to those who are poor; God's righteousness endures for ever.' The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that has been given to you. Thanks be to God for God's indescribable gift!

MCCLV's Weekly 2014 Budgeted for Giving is $3,916.98

Date	Attendance	Giving
10/12/2014	100	$1,965.29
10/05/2014	83	$2,492.70
9/28/2014	101	$2,682.88
9/21/2014	71	$2,289.39

Full financial reporting is provided at the Board meeting on the 2nd Sunday of every month. All are welcome to attend. Additionally, reports may be viewed in the Board binder in the Library.

MCCLV MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Congregational Care & Health:

Karl Steiner | karl.steiner@mcclv.org

20s30s Young Men's Group, G.I.F.T. Young Women's Group, MCCLV Retirees, HIV Support, Drumming Circle, Fellowship, Visitor Team, Prayer Team, Reconciliation & Affirmation, Grief Counseling & Deacon Care

Spiritual Formation:

See Rev. Goudy for more information

FORGE Groups, Adult Spiritual Formation and Children & Youth Spiritual Formation

Outreach & Justice:

Barb Baus | barb.baus@mcclv.org

Evangelism, Free Market, Silent Witness, Food Pantry and Helping Hands Ministry

Media & Marketing:

See Rev. Goudy for more information

Communications and Marketing Ministry

Denominational Representatives:

Lay Delegates Hope Hilby and Normana Schaaf

MCCLV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Carpenter, Jim Harbst, Diana LaTorre, Emma Marrero, Lauren Sheldon and Ron Smith

If you would like an item included on the Board agenda see any Board Member

MCCLV DEACONS

Loreli Bauer, Maricel Concepcion, Clarence Freed, Hope Hilby, Jessica Mitchell, Normana Schaaf, Karl Steiner and Carol Stevens

MCCLV STAFF

Pastor: Elizabeth Goudy | rev.goudy@mcclv.org
Music and Worship Director: Brian Jones | brian.jones@mcclv.org
Administrative Assistant: Paula Merkel | office@mcclv.org